

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NSC:PRODMAN/HLK

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NEA - MR. ATHERTON

S/S JPMOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 262779

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ -
OCTOBER 31, 1975

1. THE SECRETARY RECEIVED AMBASSADOR DINITZ FOR AN HOUR-
AND-A-HALF MEETING ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1975. DINITZ
HAD BEEN ASKED BY PM RABIN TO INQUIRE INTO THREE ASPECTS
OF SADAT VISIT: NAMELY, (A) ARMS FOR EGYPT, (B) PLO,
AND (C) FUTURE MOVES WITH SYRIA. THE SECRETARY TOLD
DINITZ THAT SADAT HAD PRESSED LESS IN HIS PRIVATE MEETINGS
THAN HE HAD SAID PUBLICLY, AND THERE HAD BEEN LITTLE
SPECIFIC DISCUSSION. THE SECRETARY CONFIRMED FOR DINITZ
THAT THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC US COMMITMENT ON ARMS OR A MOVE
WITH SYRIA, AND NO CHANGE IN OUR POLICY ON THE PLO.

2. DINITZ COMPLAINED ABOUT THE LACK OF U.S. RESPONSE TO
SADAT'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT ZIONISM, ABOUT HIS RIGHT
TO RESORT TO FORCE UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE UN CHARTER, AND
ABOUT ANTI-SEMITIC COMMENTS SUCH AS ALLEGED JEWISH CONTROL

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OF THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY BEFORE 1952. THE SECRETARY EX-

PRESSED THE VIEW THAT SADAT'S ACTIONS WERE MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN HIS RHETORIC.

3. DINITZ ASKED OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION. THE SECRETARY SAID IT WAS UNCLEAR. WE WERE AGAINST ANY OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. WE HAD TOLD THE SYRIANS THAT WE WERE VERY OPPOSED TO ANY MILITARY MOVE. THE SYRIANS TOLD US THEY WERE NOT CONTEMPLATING ANYTHING AND WERE TRYING TO CALM THE SITUATION. OUR INFORMATION SUGGESTED THIS WAS TRUE. DINITZ SAID THE ISRAELI IMPRESSION WAS SIMILAR. THE SECRETARY SAID IN PASSING THAT OUR IMPRESSION WAS THAT ISRAEL WAS ARMING THE MARONITES AND LIBYA WAS ARMING THE MOSLEMS.

4. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT WE HAD ALSO RAISED THE FEDAYEEN INCIDENT ON THE GOLAN WITH THE SYRIANS. SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL SHIHABI HAD VEHEMENTLY DENIED SYRIAN INVOLVEMENT. DINITZ POINTED OUT THAT THE CAPTURED FEDAYEEN SAID THEY HAD BEEN ESCORTED TO THE BORDER BY SYRIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. DINITZ AND THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE INCIDENT DEPENDED ON WHETHER A PATTERN DEVELOPED.

5. DINITZ REPORTED THAT ISRAEL AGREED TO THE ARRANGEMENT CONVEYED TO HIM BY SISCO ON THE NUCLEAR REACTORS-I.E., THAT THE U.S. PROCEED TO NEGOTIATE AGREEMENTS WITH BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL FOR SAFEGUARDS OVER U.S.-SUPPLIED FACILITIES AND MATERIALS.

6. DINITZ THEN RAISED THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN AID MESSAGE OF OCTOBER 30, OBJECTING TO THE WORDING OF THE MIDDLE EAST SECTION ON "WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI" AND PALESTINIANS IN PARTICULAR. SECONDLY, DINITZ INQUIRED ABOUT THE FIGURES. THE FIGURE FOR ISRAEL WAS DOLLARS 2.24 BILLION INSTEAD OF DOLLARS 2.3. ATHERTON SAID ITEMS UNDER THE LEGISLATION SUCH AS PL 480 WERE PART OF THE DOLLARS 2.3 BILLION AND WERE NOT SHOWN IN THE REGULAR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE REQUEST SENT TO CONGRESS. DINITZ SAID THIS WAS NOT WHAT WAS AGREED, AND SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT.

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7. DINITZ THEN ASKED WHY THE PROPORTION OF CREDIT TO GRANT WAS NOT TWO-THIRDS GRANT. THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT THE BILL HAD INCLUDED TWO-THIRDS GRANT UNTIL THIS WEEK, WHEN OMB HAD ARGUED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE MANY CUT-BACKS IN DOMESTIC PROGRAMS, IT FELT IT HAD TO TIGHTEN UP THE AID BILL ALSO. THE DECISION HAD BEEN TO HAVE HALF CREDIT AND HALF GRANT. THE SECRETARY REGRETTED THAT

WE HAD NOT INFORMED ISRAEL OF IT SOONER. DINITZ REPORTED THAT PRESS BRIEFING BY STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL (STERN OF PM) SAID THE SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE WOULD BE A MIX OF GRANT AND CREDIT INSTEAD OF ALL GRANT AS USUAL.

THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD CHECK INTO IT.

8. FYI. ON DOLLARS 1,500 MILLION MILITARY ASSISTANCE, THE SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS IN FACT ASKS FOR ONE-THIRD GRANT AND TWO-THIRDS CREDIT, INSTEAD OF 50-50. THIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RESULT OF BUREAUCRATIC MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH WE ARE NOW ENDEAVORING TO CORRECT. ON ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION WAS THAT DOLLARS 800 MILLION BE BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS: DOLLARS 15 MILLION PL 480; DOLLARS 20 MILLION REFUGEE ASSISTANCE; DOLLARS 25 MILLION HOUSING INVESTMENT GUARANTEE; DOLLARS 150 MILLION UNTIED CASH GRANT; DOLLARS 350 MILLION CIP ON GRANT BASIS; DOLLARS 240 MILLION CIP ON REGULAR AID LOAN TERMS. WE ARE NOW SEEKING MAKE DOLLARS 15 MILLION PL 480 ADDITIVE TO, RATHER THAN INCLUDED IN DOLLARS 2.3 BILLION TOTAL. END FYI.

9. DINITZ THEN RAISED A NUMBER OF ARMS SUPPLY PROBLEMS. THE PENTAGON WAS SHOWING NO MOVEMENT ON THE F-15, F-16, LASER DESIGNATORS, AND THE FY 76 SLICE OF MATMON-B, ALL OF WHICH ISRAEL HAD BEEN ASSURED WERE TO BE RELEASED. THE SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD ALSO LOOK INTO THIS WITH A VIEW TO BREAKING THESE ITEMS LOOSE.

10. THE TIMING OF RABIN'S VISIT WAS DISCUSSED INCONCLUSIVELY, WITH JANUARY NOW A POSSIBILITY. IT WAS AGREED TO LEAVE IT OPEN FOR ANOTHER WEEK.

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11. BEFORE LEAVING, DINITZ LEFT WITH THE SECRETARY A LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON STATING THE ISRAELI POSITION ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT. THE SECRETARY IN TURN HANDED OVER A LETTER TO ALLON STATING THE U.S. POSITION ON THE ARAB BOYCOTT. (THESE LETTERS ARE BEING SENT SEPTTEL.) KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT NOT-TRANSMITTED TO ISO, CHEROKEE 11/19/75, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 11/06/75, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE262779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PRODMAN/HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA 19751106
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840084-0171
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751171/aaaaclux.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ - OCTOBER 31, 1975
TAGS: PREL, PFOR, EG, US, XF, IS, PLO, (SADAT, ANWAR), (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (FAHMY, ISMAIL), (DINITZ, SIMCHA)
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006